

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Cancel claims 4, 10 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Amend claims 1, 7 and 13.
3. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP Publication No. 08-305531 to Mitsuru. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed, particularly in view of the claims as now amended.

Claim 1 is directed to an agent display apparatus displaying a personified agent for making the agent selectively perform a process. The apparatus comprises a first interface for controlling display of the agent and for inputting a request from a user; a second interface for controlling an application program; an action script storing portion for storing an action script describing a procedure of controlling the first interface and the second interface; a searching portion for searching in the action script storing portion for the action script. The searching portion searches for the action script in accordance with the request input from the first interface. The action script searched for follows the described procedure. The first interface controls display of the agent to start the application program. An executing portion controls the application program through the second interface.

On the other hand, according to Mitsuru, by specifying a prescribed appliance (within a room shell) displayed on a screen, starts a corresponding household electrical

appliance AP (Application Program). An AP event reference table is registered in the household electrical appliance AP. If any event occurs when that prescribed appliance is operated, an agent is displayed and a message of the event is output by voice. Accordingly, the household electrical appliance AP is started by specifying a prescribed household electrical appliance within the room shell displayed on a display screen, and the agent is displayed when an event occurs.

That is, Mitsuru does not teach or suggest apparatus or method by which a user inputs a request according to display of an agent in a first interface, whereby a corresponding action script is searched for, and a target application program is started in the procedure described in the action script.

Further, according to Mitsuru, according to the contents stored in the AP event reference table, an event occurs and an agent appears to prompt a user to select the next operation. Mitsuru does not teach or suggest an agent searching for an action script, or about demonstrating the contents describing the searched action script through an agent.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants' claimed agent is not dependent on an application program, as can be seen from the fact that if the agent is provided with a request initially, the agent searches for the target action script to start the target application program, and executes the operation corresponding to the request while demonstrating.

By contrast, in Mitsuru an agent merely appears when registering an event in response to the operation of a user, while the operation of the appliance still must be done by a user for each time (by providing an instruction to the agent, when registering an event). In other words, the agent is dependent on the application program, and operates under control of the application program.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

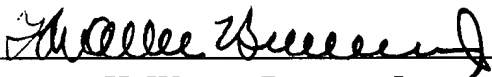
In view of the foregoing and other considerations, Applicants request that all prior art rejections be withdrawn and urge that all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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